

THE CHINA MAIL.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.
HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 5th JULY, 1866.

DEATHS.

On the 1st July, aged 8 months, FANNY ROBERT ARCHER, infant, son of D. R. Crawford.
At the Government Civil Hospital, Hongkong, on the 25th June, HENRY BATA, Russian, unemployed.
At the Government Civil Hospital, Hongkong, on the 4th July, JAMES BROWN, a Citizen of the U. S. of America.

ECCHOES OF THE WEEK.

The rebels at Chinkiang—Capture of the capital of Kanbu—Victory of imperialists at Tan-yuan-siao—Japan—Depression at Tientsin—Kiaochow telegraph—Shanghai, withdrawal of half impost in French Concession—Shipping losses at Foochow and Amoy—Hongkong, stoppage of the Agra Bank—Piracy—The Agra and Commercial Bank affair—The Tientsin question and the 20th Regt.

AGAIN has news arrived that Chinese rebels are devastating the unhappy country nearly opposite CHINKIANG and some forty miles inland a large body is reported to be amassing itself. In KANSU Lanchow has fallen before the victorious arms of the turbulent Mahomedans while the imperialists seem to have disappeared from the scene as if by the stroke of Harlequin's wand. Near TAN YUEN SIAO however the "ever victorious" braves seem to have had the best of it, a body of 6,500 NIEN FUI having been forced to retire with some loss. From JAPAN there is no public news of any interest and Peking seems to have not yet thrown off its winter sleep for nothing has been heard of any events there for several months. At TIENTSIN we learn that the late commercial news has had a very depressing effect on the market for Grey Shirtings. A somewhat undignified ending to the sentence it will strike uncommercial readers. Still Grey Shirtings are one of the means whereby it has pleased providence (via the Anglo Saxon race) to cause the dollar to circulate, so we are all bound to pay attention to such an announcement.

The KIAOCHOW telegraph seems capable of doing a good deal but has as yet effected very little; the telegraph hitherto received have been either false or obscure but this probably arises from a little want of organization at the European end of the line.

From SHANGHAI itself the only news of importance is the partial resumption of business by the Chinese shopkeepers in the French concession. The imports have been reduced by one half and this has reassured some of the natives. It seems that the whole affair has been mismanaged; either the impost should not have been made at all or if made should have been well considered, and once imposed the tax should have been maintained. Precedents are everything to the Chinaman and the present case will give rise to future trouble when it appears that the French barbarians can be coerced into altering their regulations.

From FOOCHOW and AMOY the only news, relates to shipping; the *Minerva* grounded at the former place and was irretrievably damaged; while the American schooner *Golden Pearl* has been totally lost near Amoy. Pirates are reported to be hovering near Foochow.

From CANTON there is no news whatever.

At HONGKONG we have had a week of monetary excitement. The *Agamemnon* which arrived on the 29th ultimo brought news of the suspension of the Agra and Masterman's Bank and the Manager of the Hongkong branch immediately issued a notification to the effect that the establishment would close for the present so far as issue was concerned. The Chinese became greatly alarmed and with a good many Europeans made a run on the other Banks. The Oriental is said to have behaved in a very creditable manner by cashing the paper of one or two other Banks and this went far to reassure the frightened holders. All danger of a rush is apparently now over but great inconvenience must result from the stoppage of the Agra even if no eventual loss be sustained by depositors. The Mail Steamer *Buenos* which arrived yesterday brought telegrams to the effect that the shareholders had resolved on voluntary liquidation.

The only new political telegram by the mail is one dated 12th June to the effect that the Austrians had evacuated Holstein. Telegrams to the 14th from Bombay and Calcutta bring sad news of the state of the money market, heavy failures and great consternation being reported.

Piracy has again reared its ugly head in Hongkong waters. There has been a preliminary examination of the rascals captured who were concerned in the attacks on the *Carl* and *Consuelo*. The police seem to have shown great zeal and "saved" in their action about this affair. A report of the case will be found in our columns. As to the Paksui affair the mandarin garrison is reported to be nowhere and the scoundrels have returned to their old station in as great force as ever. The supposed murderer of the unfortunate Mrs. Mayer has been fully committed for trial at the next sessions. If guilty it is to be hoped that he will un-

dergo the extreme penalty of the law with every mark of ignominy which may impress the Chinese mind with foreign opinion as to the enormity of his crime.

The Governor has granted permission for the temporary erection of the proposed new swimming bath. H. E. appears to have done this, although his private judgement did not approve of the plan, and his consideration will be appreciated.

We omitted to mention in our last issue that the money in dispute between the Commercial and Agra Banks was paid over by the Colonial Treasury to the latter, thus it would seem vindicating the action taken by Mr. Anderson. In the present disturbed state of banking affairs it is to be hoped that the personal matter will be allowed to drop. There is quite enough to do in other matters to employ the gentlemen of the long robe pretty extensively and as both are now suspended, shareholders are likely to suffer more than they wish under any circumstances.

Two articles relative to the Japan itzabu exchange have appeared during the last week in the columns of the *Evening Mail* as also a letter addressed to that paper stating that the Japanese government were satisfied with the documents they signed and that the officers and men had (with one exception) no outstanding claims on the score of exchange. We shall publish all these documents in full in our overland issue but think it better to forego doing so to-day as the questions put in an article which appeared in last night's *Evening Mail* are as yet unanswered and it would be giving an unfair idea to the public to republish the articles as they at present stand. A question of this sort is a peculiarly difficult one for editorial judgment. If certain papers reflecting on any body of men are forwarded to a newspaper with undoubted guarantee for their truthfulness, it is shirking a public duty to refuse to publish them provided of course that thereby individual wrong may be redressed. We have simply asked certain questions which, if every-thing has been fair and above board there can be no earthly objection to answering with a 'yes' or 'no' to each. Our contemporary in an article this morning appears rather to advise these questions being treated with contempt. Such may be the best course if our questions demand answers which it would be unpleasant to make public, but as the matter has already come before parliament it must finally be sifted even if the statements in a 'local journal' are ignored. Meantime we hold ourselves ready to publish any satisfactory refutation which may be sent us in the fullest manner, and—more than that—to aid in tracing the source whence such statements emanated if they be proved false and not based on reasonable grounds.

Our readers may recollect that on the departure of Mr. Hart for England we alluded to the danger besetting the so-called Chinese mission on their appearance in the European world, and pointed out the unfavourable impression regarding our own position amongst the Governments of Europe which would be produced on the minds of the Chinese authorities should a true report reach them of the folly, official and unofficial, which we predicted would be displayed in their reception. We regret to learn by the *London and China Express* that our predictions have been verified and that the good sense of the English and French gentlemen accompanying them have been the only means of preserving these Chinese from being actually "killed with kindness." Such a journal as the *London and China Express* should manage to obtain reliable information on such topics but it seems to fall in with the popular mood for lionizing anything strange and pig-tailed and applies to *Ping-ta-lao-yen* (the last three syllables having somewhat more force than our "Esquire") the same title—that of *ta-jen*—which is applied to our own representatives and officials of the highest rank in China. Their remarks about the "interesting appearance" of the young Chinese etc., etc., are amusing as showing how unfamiliar such animals are to the correspondent who delights his readers with such paragraphs.

We cannot but protest against the foolish conduct of those at home who are thus unconsciously no doubt, doing their best to damage the establishment of a satisfactory mission from China to Great Britain. If, as may be presumed, the Native authorities receive on *Ping's* return a tolerably truthful report of the reception he has met with, their first impulse will be to feel a sort of contempt for those who have, according to their own ideas—lowered their dignity so far as to publicly receive a diplomatically unaccredited agent with the courtesy shown by the Chinese to none but their own countrymen. In China the pettiest

of Mandarins has been thought good enough to meet and confer with our own Admirals, Generals and Ambassadors. With us our Minister for Foreign affairs has been contented to receive a small official on terms of equality. The natural inference which the Chinese will draw from this will be that it is perfectly unnecessary to accredit any one of acknowledged high rank as Ambassador to a European state. If a coolie may stand in the presence of European Royalty. If a Ningpo junkman may be presented in *propria persona* to Her Majesty. If the native Secretary of a foreign official may sit on terms of equality with a minister of state, and half a dozen little boys the sons of petty tradesmen and servants may be feted and caressed till their poor little pigtails fairly stand on end with astonishment at the treatment they receive—it will obviously be foolish to endanger the lives or comfort of any of the grandees of the empire by compelling them to visit Europe when their head servant's precocious sense will do just as well.

It may seem that we are unduly harsh in thus speaking. But we would draw attention to the fact that the "mission" possesses just enough official character to come to much harm under this pig-tailed system. Were *Ping* merely a respectable Chinese of the same social standing in his own country as our middle class population, travelling for pleasure, any civilities he received not absolutely outrageous would be all very well. He is sent however, as a 'feeler' to judge of the disposition of the barbarian nations when seen in their true colors at their own homes. Particular care is therefore necessary in teaching him and his pupils that he is, diplomatically speaking, a nobody, and that all the attentions he receives are dictated by our natural friendliness to strangers and do not arise from an ignorance on our part of his true position. The Asiatic cannot comprehend our system of Government when the greatest men are accessible to the public, and connects seclusion with rank and influence. Our best hopes that Mr. *Ping* will not be quite spoiled lie in the fact that the European gentlemen who accompany him know China well, but even their efforts may be frustrated if our highest officials vie with the young ladies who want "just a look off that duck of a pigtail."

From our LONDON Correspondent.

LONDON, 26th May, 1866.

The crisis has assumed formidable proportions in the financial world although, happily, commerce and trade seem far less affected by the shock than was to be anticipated. The telegrams will have informed you of the events of the eleventh instant. *Black Friday* as it was appropriately called and a day or two afterwards we had the following serious list of failures:

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|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Overend Gurney & Co., | £13,000,000 |
| Peto & Betts, | 4,000,000 |
| Warrington & Co., | 200,000 |
| Imperial Mercantile Bank, | 500,000 |
| Consolidated discount Association, | 250,000 |
| English Joint Stock Bank, | 800,000 |
| Wakefield, Nash & Co. (Liverpool), | 1,000,000 |
| Commercial Bank Corporation of India, | 1,000,000 |
| | £20,750,000 |

The deficit expected on that account being from 60 to 70 per cent.

The difficulties of Messrs. Peto and Betts, have been long known and the failure caused no surprise. The managers of the Commercial Bank of India are greatly blamed for the course they have pursued, and the failure is attributed to their want of skill and nothing else.

The government was compelled to suspend the operation of the Banks Charter, and the opinion of the great majority of the financial world is decided against any aid on the part of the authorities to attempt the money market. It is true that certain very influential persons patronise the system, and this is one of the strongest arguments against it with the majority. "If it were good for finance in general," say they, "the leading financiers would not be so favorably inclined towards it." A hard assertion which one would like not to endorse.

Of the stoppages which have taken place since the above list was made up the following are the chief:—The European Bank, a new concern, not in a very bad case it is said; Gullatly, Hanky and Sewell; Kingston, Sutherland & Co. of Mining Lane; Robinson, Corryton & Co., bankers and brokers of Manchester; Hallett, Ommann & Co., bankers and navy agents. The run on the Bank was terrible, Lombard street was only maintained in business condition by the efforts of numbers of policemen but the storm was borne without much injury. It was otherwise on the stock exchange the real seat of the evil, there the brokers and jobbers came in for the effect of the system, and lots of principals having levanted the unfortunate agents collapsed.

The India and China Banks have been seriously affected by the panic, but with the exception of the one already referred to, no disaster has occurred. The annual meeting of the Bank of Hindustan, China and Japan took place the other day when there was almost a row but the complainants were completely out-voted.

The principal cause of all this mischief was undoubtedly over speculation, and Overend, Gurney & Co. being the very nucleus of financial speculation, their actual condition becomes a matter of in-

terest; at first a deficit of four or five millions was talked off, but the statement put forth places matters in a much less disastrous light. According to this statement, which caused a rise of 9/8 in consols, the assets amount to about nineteen millions, and the liabilities to twenty one millions. The disaster is attributed to the company having accepted as good from the old firm of Overend Gurney & Co., more than three millions of very doubtful securities.

The position of Peto, Betts & Co., is so much regretted that half-a-million of money was subscribed by private friends to save the concern but it was not thought advisable to accept the offer in the present state of things. The debts and liabilities are put down at about four millions and the assets at £200,000 less. It will be some time however before the property can be realized.

The policy of setting Overend Gurney & Co. on foot again is now under consideration and the idea seems to be received with considerable favour.

I should mention that the Bank of London has been compelled to amalgamate with one of the other great banking establishments.

The stock market was of course seriously affected at the commencement of the crisis, but consols have borne the shock well and shown nearly all their extraordinary elasticity. This is a cheering fact, but you may suppose that trade and commerce do not expect much aid from the money market at a moment when discount and interest range between ten and twelve per cent.

Whitsuntide and Black Friday have almost made us careless of the news that the three great powers have agreed to a conference, and that Austria, Prussia and Italy are incited to try and arrange matters around a table has done away, for the moment, with the necessity for getting excited upon the late expected war. It is not that we here have the fullest confidence in the assertions of all the parties to the affair but the promise of an arrangement easily fulfils us when our hearts are full of other matters.

The German and Italians, and even the French are determined on cutting each others throats and blowing each others brains out we are very sorry for the fact but, as perhaps they will think better of it, and put off the madness to some other season, we lay the subject on one of the shelves in our memory till we have more time to think about it, or are forced to do so.

As usual upon such occasions there are all kinds of reports abroad, one being that a secret treaty gives Luxembourg and Saragbrück to France, and another that a similar understanding with Italy will add the island of Sardinia to the Empire.

The way in which the various reigning families are set at cross purposes by the quarrel in Germany is curiously illustrated by the following facts: The daughter of the Queen of England is the heiress to the throne of Prussia, and she and her husband the Prince are known to be opposed to the policy of the present minister, Queen Victoria addresses a private letter urging the King to beware of the dangers which surround the policy of the present cabinet at Berlin, or rather that of M. Bismarck, and almost at the same moment the brother of the late Prince Albert who holds a superior command in the Prussian Army asks the King to place him on active service in case of war.

A step which may lead to serious consequences has been taken by the Sultan who has consented to agree to the proposal of the Vice-roy of Egypt, in setting aside the old system of succession and declaring the son of the present Vice-roy heir in place of his uncle Mustapha Pacha. It is added that an increase in the tribute paid to Turkey by Egypt will take place in consequence.

The Pacha is engaged on the construction of a new line of telegraph on the banks of the Nile, and which will cross the Red Sea in latitude 19 and take the route by Aden; it is said that the Egyptian portion of the line will be handed over to an English company and, if so, we shall get a new and comparatively independent route to Bombay.

The Spanish admiral has performed the grand feat of bombarding Valparaiso knocking all the public buildings to pieces and killing, as far as we know, four persons. Not only is the act branded by all the world as barbarous but the English government accuses the Spanish authorities of having acted with bad faith in the matter; this accusation was referred to in the chamber at Madrid when the minister said that the measures taken against the American republics would be persevered in with energy.

The Fenians have actually done something at last, they have seized a small English schooner off the American coast and have restored her again! It seems the pirates got terrified. The idea was to draw the English men of war into collision with the American and thus convert the Fishery dispute into Fenian capital. Stephens has arrived in America and is about to reorganise the movement; he condemns the conduct of the Fenians in the states as a means of "reclaiming Canada from Japan," but Ireland is the true object of the Fenians.

The American government seems to have knocked up the Fenian movement on the Maine border and to have determined to put an end to all breaches of neutrality. Stephens tells his miserable dupes that they may yet be fighting in Ireland before the year is out, but all accounts agree that the eyes of the deluded subscribers are opened at last and that Fenianism is finished. It is to be hoped, for the sake of the leaders and followers especially, that such is the case.

The conflict between the president and his opponents seems to grow more violent, and certain loud-mouthed brawlers have talked of treason and indictment, but we know how very large a discount has to be made for American orators. There has been a conflict between the whites and blacks at Memphis, one of the former and fifteen of the latter having been killed, and many more wounded. Thirty houses were burned down.

The Federal circuit court has indicted Mr. Davis for treason, the bill being endorsed by the Grand Jury. The court stands adjourned to the first Tuesday in June.

The president has proclaimed the reduction of certain duties by a convention between Japan and the Washington government.—Sheet lead, matting and other materials used in packing tea to be free of all duties; machinery, drugs, iron, tin, white sugar, glass, clocks, watches, wine, beer, etc. to pay only 5 per cent. The prohibition with respect to Opium to remain in full force.

Colonel Hobbs, whose conduct in Jamaica has been so severely commented on, has committed suicide by leaping into the sea from the deck of a ship.

Now that Whitsuntide is passed and gone the representatives of the people at Westminster must buckle to their work for the session; there are no less than 44 bills waiting to be read a second time, 20 read and waiting to go through committee, and, altogether, 70 before the commons and 16 before the Lords.

There has been a sharp fight for the vacant seats at Nottingham, ending with the election of Mr. Osborne, and Lord Amberley, son of Earl Russell, the United Presbyterian Church met at Edinburgh on the 12th instant, and has just closed its sittings.

The Rev. Dr. Macfarlane, minister at Clapham, was chosen moderator. The report on the statistics of the denomination showed that the number of congregations attached to the Synod was 502, an increase of 78 since 1856; that the membership had, within that period, risen from 152,622 to 172,762; that, excluding extra-congregational members, the contributions per member amounted to 28s. 5d., or including legacies and personal donations, 30s. 6d.; the contributions for missionary objects had risen in seven years from 40,000l. to 51,000l. There were 285 stipends ranging from 90l. to 150l., while the other 307 ran from 150l. to 600l. The total number of ministers was 620, elders 4,466, preachers 103, students of divinity 134, Sunday school-teachers 8,977, scholars 72,501.

At a meeting of the Stirling Town-council, held on Monday evening, the provost reported that the sum required to finish the repairs on the Abbey Tower at Cambuskenneth in a satisfactory manner would amount to above 600l. The erection of a monument over the grave of James III., by command of Her Majesty, gave the tower an additional interest, and he thought it ought to be maintained in thorough repair. After some discussion it was decided to a committee to obtain estimates for the laying in of two floors in the tower, and to report to next meeting.

Earl Dunmore has armed and equipped a hundred picked men to act as body guard to the Queen when she visits Balmoral; every man is full six feet high, it is said. The Derby day was one of the most animated ever known. Lord Lyon won the great prize performing the distance in one second only more than the time taken by Gladstone and two seconds more than Blair Athol; the stakes amounted to 7,350l. and the bets were very heavy.

The Earl of Aberdeen amongst his other modes of acquiring practical knowledge of the world has just arrived at New Brunswick having worked his passage as a common seaman in the *Pomona*; neither the captain nor any one else on board had the slightest suspicion of the rank of the poor landsman.

From our PARIS Correspondent.

PARIS, 26th May, 1866.

It appears that after all we are to have that long talked of novelty conference before a war, if not as many hope, instead of a war. England, France, and Russia in-vite Austria, Italy, Prussia, and the German confederation as a body to send delegates to try and arrange matters in Paris, and it is hoped that the meeting will take place in about a fortnight. Three days ago war was generally looked upon as inevitable, now the opinion seems to be that, in a regular way, it has almost become impossible. Austria has armed herself to the teeth and calmly waits to be attacked and the noisy Bismarck and his imperious master seem to hesitate, and no wonder, for, if report be true, the temper of the Prussians is such that an aggressive war against Austria is not at all unlikely to bring about a revolution at home. The dread of revolution is perhaps one of the finest checks in the world upon tyrants and their agents; the pity is that it does not eradicate instead of giving rise to them again as in nine cases out of ten.

What the conference will produce should it meet, whether it will present war or not is of course a warmly debated question. Italy seems determined to fight, and people say that she must do so or go to pieces. While others shrewdly suspect that war will certainly cost her a limb or two—we know how little United Italy is loved by the statesmen of the continent. But Victor Emmanuel intends to brave all the chances, that is generally believed, and the most remarkable evidence in favour of that view is the making Garibaldi a General in the Italian Army and giving him 50,000 men, which are not unlikely to be raised to 100,000.

This fact has perhaps stopped the war or may stop it, for Italian republicanism is not more in favour than Prussian revolution; but a man like Garibaldi with 100,000 or half that number of men at his back is like a horse set free in a crowded street, no one can by any possibility guess how far he may run, which road he will take, and what mischief he may do, before he can be arrested. It may be argued that Garibaldi in accepting the position is bound by all the laws of military honour to obey orders; but when the blood is up, the head sometimes is carried away a little, and success is so generally approved that there is every inducement to take a daring course and cut down the bridge, especially when it is perfectly certain that nearly the whole of the Italian people are Garibaldians. Will a conference keep the scarlet shirts out of the Tyrol or Dalmatia? That is a serious question which is asked on all sides.

The German diet has decided unanimously that the states which have taken up arms shall be invited to say upon what conditions they will consent to lay them down again, and Austria and Prussia have promised to state their conditions at the meeting.

Prussia again brings forth the proposition of a German parliament and declares that nothing else will preserve Germany from war. This proposal is quoted as a proof of the desire of Prussia to see peace maintained, but people naturally smile at the idea of the King of Prussia and his Minister having any faith whatever in parliaments after the treatment which that of Prussia has received from their hands.

One of the best signs of the day is the countermanding of sixty-nine convoys which were to have been sent by the line of the Main Weser to convey troops from the neighbourhood of the Rhine towards Thuringia and Saxony.

Such is the position of affairs at present and, unfortunately, the uncertainty has almost as bad an effect as war itself would have. Business is in a deplorable condition and everything of a speculative character, even of the best and safest kind is set aside, if the mere schemes which occupy so large a space in the public eye, and which are as shallow as they are noisy could alone be

quashed a European war would not be too dear a price to pay for the blessing, but there is no such luck to be hoped for; side by side with true commercial speculation we shall, I suppose, have always, that specious, gambling speculation which produces every six or seven years a disarrangement of the whole financial and commercial system.

The *Moniteur* of this morning holds out a fair prospect of peace, if words mean anything; it says that France, England, and Russia are agreed upon the mode of preventing the war and now announce the questions which will be submitted to the conference, namely, that of Italy, of the Principality of the Elbe, and of the reform of the German constitution. Consequently, the three governments have each sent invitations to Austria, Prussia, Italy, and the German confederation to take part in the Conference which will be held in Paris at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. Layard is here as the special representative of the British Government, and it is he who has arranged the preliminaries of the conference with the French and Russian representatives.

Another good sign of the times is the continuance in the office of M. Fould and M. Drouyn de Lhuys, who are both known to be entirely opposed to war, on no financial grounds the other on political opinion; should these two able Ministers quit the government, war will not be far off, at least such is the universal opinion in well informed circles in Paris and throughout the Empire.

Prince Napoleon has returned to Paris from Italy, and the *Opinion Nationale* has become more belligerent since the arrival of its friend and patron, the stormy petrel for Prince Napoleon is known to be warlike in inverse ratio to his military experiences and political sagacity. With the exception of this paper and the *Siècle* nearly all the world here is against war, and it is vastly amusing to hear these democratic organs insist on war as necessary to preserve the stability of the Imperial Government. One is almost inclined to read their incantations backward as a necromancer does the Lord's prayer when he desires to conjure up the devil or his imps. It would be a sad day for France and Europe did the wisdom of these two journals rule the world.

Two papers have received warnings; the *Courrier du Dimanche* for an article by M. Prevost, Paradol who said—"The Keil has fallen" and went on to show that the coming war was simply a mode of rendering compression at home more complete; and the *Union de l'Ouest* for an article based on the same view.

Four journals have been prosecuted for publishing an account of certain proceedings in the Corps Legislatif, before the official report was supplied to them. The papers were perfectly true only the authority for its publication was wanting. The punishment awarded was a thousand francs in each case. There was an amusing feature in the case, namely, that the semi-official *Constitutionnel* was one of the culprits; this is like punishing the little toe for offending the body.

The political section of the Academy of Sciences moral and political, has been suppressed; life and Politics being merged in the title—Political economy and finance. The comment out of doors is that the suppression is perfectly logical, as Politics no longer exist for the public.

The Danubian principalities are playing the game of Poland over again and will continue to play it till the world, disgusted with the tricks of the manikin, terminates its existence justly or otherwise. There has been a conference on the subject here when all, but the Prussian representative agreed to a joint intervention on the part of Turkey and Russia; while this was going on the people of the provinces elect Prince Charles of Hohenzollern, an officer in the Prussian army, and he rushes over and takes possession at once. It is said that England, France, and Austria will protest against his enthronement. The line of partition on the Danubian soil is probably all but determined on. The Hospodar of these precious provinces, once by law a native, now the comic authorities of the country have just naturalized the father of Prince Charles who thus becomes a Roman by birth, a most characteristic *coup de theatre*. The last news is that a joint Russian and Turkish corps d'armes has taken possession until matters are settled to the satisfaction of the powers. General Kotzebue and Omer Pacha are in command of the combined forces, and are now in Moldavia. An awkward situation is adroit in consequence of Prince Charles being connected not only with Prussia, but also with the Murat family.

Two sons of Abd-el-Kader have just arrived here in order to study the civilization of Western Europe.

The eruption of the Isle of Santorin seems to be the result of extensive volcanic influences. Nice has felt shocks more than once, and last week was visited by two decided earthquakes though not violent. There have also been two at Marseilles sufficiently severe to cause considerable terror.

(From the "Evening Mail.")

We referred a few days ago to the grant of a portion of the inner harbor of Macao, by the Governor of that Colony, and negotiations are now pending for its completion. As the reclaiming of the ground in question must be of great advantage both to the city of Macao itself and to all those who may be disposed to cooperate in it, strikes us that the subject, requires but to be known to be fully appreciated.

The space to be reclaimed consists of about 250 acres, the greater part of which does not require over 2 to 3 feet of filling up to bring it to the required level, while much of it requires less than one foot, and a considerable quantity of earth and stone, resulting from the late public improvements in Macao, is available and will be placed at the disposal of the undertaker of the scheme, by Governor AMARAL, free of expense.

We come now to those who may be disposed to occupy this reclaimed land, which it is proposed to appropriate both to building and agricultural purposes.

As regards Chinese, the main consideration with them, is the perfect security both to person and property, which they

have heretofore considered as always. Colony of Macao, that portion of its it has been for many during the administration. AMARAL the material been so great, the residence of the In proof of this enormous as in almost any description not to be had already possessed able houses and the to purchase more houses while the num are few trees while \$1,000 to owners, for those were ready to obtain These are our opinion every one who knows fore self evident that great desideratum availed of the all a private security, a fresh, clean and well as the outlet to all the better the latter. Several upon the streets where the Macao industries are. We have not another in that ferred to the cutting of the barriers and the entire We said Concessions in the boats to pass with in the re, we re freeing the inner of sand and mud. the Macao author looked the features content in the inner harbor as a valling of the river mer while during blow steady from quency is that which is a law with great delay quency is to 1 vessels to 1 out- ed up, as is ca view of the incl quest and the which is securi commens were disordered, or eve Outside the bar barrier as to be and the port towards the cession of enjoy the pre of this city of Macao.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A public com- been on with on the reach agreed to have and a number of ness in the queue.

We learn from large box of off- sixty is a of Yangtze opposi be com- the Em heart of the light hung, a pos- crush, a reel- again, a mut- done and this scene of action. up a strong force.

We learn from *Minerva* that ash- but, an actual is so, a seriously seaward. The auction on the 1

We refer to 1 American respon- with a magis 13th inst. an Amoy, 10 ships cases of carrying the passengers, on board and H out in a storm is feared that during the storm

The 11th of the firm. The water subse- 11th of the at

European war would not be too late to pay for the blessing, but such luck to be hoped for; side with true commercial speculation suppose, have always that spurious speculation which produces or seven years a disarrangement in the financial and commercial system.

On the morning of the 1st of June, the office of M. Fould and M. de Ligny, who are both known to be the other side of the question, will be submitted to the conference, that of Italy, of the Principality of Elbe, and of the reform of the constitution. Consequently, the governments have each sent invitations to Austria, Prussia, Italy, and the confederation to take part in the conference which will be held in Paris at the possible moment.

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have heretofore enjoyed and which they consider is always likely to exist in the Colony of Macao. Such is the experience of that portion of its population, whose home it has been for many generations, while, during the administration of Governor AMARAL the material improvements have been so great, that it has now become a residence more than usually sought after. In proof of this we may instance the enormous rise in rents. A building of almost any description is now absolutely not to be had. Wealthy Chinese have already possessed themselves of the available houses and they manifest an eagerness to purchase more. Within a few years houses which let for \$150 to \$200 per annum are now rented at \$500 to \$800, while \$1,000 to \$1,200 are refused by owners, for those which some years ago were readily obtainable for \$400 to \$500.

These are not opinions, but facts patent to every one who knows Macao. It is therefore self evident that additional space is a great desideratum, and will be readily availed of by all who value the public and private security already spoken of, the fresh, clean and well graded streets, a police, thoroughly efficient and watchful as well as the even handed justice dealt out to all, whether natives or foreigners, the latter feature always reacting favorably upon the governed, as in this instance, where the Macao Chinese are orderly, industrious and respectable.

We have not yet, however, mentioned another important benefit that will be conferred upon the city of Macao, by the cutting of a Canal across the Isthmus to the barrier, and which passing along the entire West and North borders of the Concession, will afford facilities to native boats to pass with cargoes for the vessels in the roads or returning from them, as well as acting to a certain extent in freeing the inner harbor from accumulations of sand and mud. It is unaccountable that the Macao authorities should have overlooked this feature and have remained content with the single opening of the inner harbor as now existing. The prevailing winds are South to East in summer while during the N. E. monsoon they blow steadily from that quarter; the consequence is, that exit from the harbor which is thus always to leeward is attended with great delay and cargo boats are frequently 12 to 18 hours in reaching the vessels in the outer anchorage. Altho, the authorities, we believe, have not yet decided upon this cutting we do not see, in view of the reclamation of land now in question and the common advantages which must accrue to the whole place and community were it done, that it can be disregarded or even long deferred.

On the other hand, as Ilha Verde and the barrier are to be fortified and garrisoned and the new port "Amaral" is far advanced towards completion, occupants of the concession will enjoy the same security as in the present thickly peopled part of the city of Macao itself.

MISCELLANEOUS NORTHERLY NEWS.

(From the N. C. Daily News.)

A partial compromise has, we believe, been effected with the Chinese shopkeepers on the French Concession. It has been agreed to have the objectionable import, and a number of shops have resumed business in consequence.

We learn from a native source that a large body of rebels have penetrated within sixty miles of the northern bank of the Yangtze, opposite Chinkiang. This, if it be correct, is a rather serious announcement, as it implies their presence in the heart of the salt districts; and although Li-hung-chang possesses sufficient force to crush any rebel army that could assemble against him, much damage may have been done before his troops can arrive at the scene of action. He has, we learn, ordered up a strong force with several guns.

FOOCHOW.

We learn from Foochow, that the barque *Minerva* got ashore while leaving for Shanghai, but that, although she was got off, she is so seriously damaged as to be unseaworthy. She was to have been sold by auction on the 18th.

AMOY.

We regret to learn that it is feared the American schooner *Golden Pearl* was lost with all hands on the night of the 12th or 13th instant, on her voyage from Tamsui to Amoy. A fisherman picked up some tin cases containing papers belonging to one of the passengers, of whom there were several on board; and H. M. S. *Porpoise* has steamed on in order to make further research. It is feared that other casualties occurred during the same storm.

HANKOW.

THE MAHOMEDAN REBELS. (Hankow Times.) The news of the revolt in Kansuh is confirmed. Lanchow, the capital, famous for its water tobacco, was lost about a month ago. It was at first reported that on the

garrison joining the Mahomedan rebellion, the governor-general of Shensi and Kansuh saved his life by hiding himself behind a huge cannon barrel, until he could escape by the house-tops over the wall. This however is contradicted by later and trustworthy advices, which state that the troops in Lanchow availed themselves of the governor-general's absence at Kingchow, whither he had gone to quell an insurrection, took possession of the city, declared themselves Mahomedans, seized the person of the treasurer and, by some reports, of the judge also, and endeavored to force them to memorialize the Emperor to the effect that the troops were driven to revolt from want of pay and food. Great numbers of mandarins and gentry committed suicide, as is usual, to prove their non-participation in the movement, which they were powerless to restrain.

There has been great distress throughout the province, wheat, macaroni, the staple article of diet, being it is reported 70 fls. a picul. The revolt of the troops for want of pay was long ago predicted and the prediction doubtless hastened the event.

It is reported that the Imperialist forces have had another successful encounter with the Nienfei Rebels near Tan-yuen-sian, a short distance to the South of Tsing-kiang-pu; and that a body of the insurgents 6500 strong has been forced to retire.

The unexpected arrival in Europe of a Chinese mission from Peking, has put the quidnuncs on the qui vive. Everybody is anxious to know what is the object of the mission; whether political, commercial, or only "look-see." Curiosity is not much satisfied, as those who accompany the party are very reticent, while the Chinese members assume the most retired manner; in contrast to the Japanese recently visiting Europe. The head Chinaman is reported in the papers to be "the Mandarin Director General of the Imperial Domains," which, if correct, would be equivalent to the head of Her Majesty's Woods and Forests. At Versailles they made a great sensation, as they were considered very superior to any Chinese hitherto seen at that port. From thence they came to Paris, where they are located at the Grand Hotel, some fifteen in number, besides Mr Wade and the French interpreter. Mr Hart left the party before they reached Paris, and he has gone on to Ireland to visit his relatives and friends returning to London next week, when the members of the mission are expected to come over.—London Correspondent of N. C. Daily News.

TIENTSIN.

Advices from Tientsin, per *Yuen-tse-foi*, to the 21st inst, state that the news received by last mail has had a most depressing effect upon the Market for Grey Shirtings.

TELEGRAMS via Kinkia to the 27th May were received yesterday by the *Ying-tse-foi*. The information they contained, however, was principally of a private nature; the only two items that we are able to publish being that "failures continue, and that there is little chance of the success of a congress at Paris."

NAGASAKI letters report mention the occurrence of a *cause célèbre* in the shape of a summons by Mrs. Green, the well-known landlady of the Bellevue Hotel, against her husband for assault. He has, it appears, been in the habit of treating her badly for some time, and she intends to apply for a judicial separation.—N. C. Herald.

A very amusing incident has recently occurred in the Native City. A Soochow man named Soon had a party of friends at his house near the *St. Mary* Bridge on Thursday night, and after partaking freely of samshu, the host and guests lay down in different directions more or less inebriated. While they were in this condition two native thieves made their way into the house by picking a hole in the wall, which was of hollow brick. They made up all they could lay their hands upon into convenient bundles, and were about to decamp, through the hole by means of which they had entered the premises, when a light rapping by hearing voices outside and dogs barking, they went to the back of the house intending to effect their exit that way when opportunity offered. As, however, they passed the kitchen they observed it was deserted and they entered it and made free with sundry viands and samshu. Before long they also fell victims to the potent effects of the wine and were soon fast asleep in a state of inebriation. At day-break some passers by seeing the hole in the wall roused out the inmates of the house; and the thieves were thus caught in a trap and handed over to the Chinese police.—Shanghai Recorder.

It is natural that Hankow residents, taking an interest in the prosperity of the port, should desire to represent the casualties which have occurred to sailing ships in the Yangtze, in the most possible form. In the *Guinevere* is thus ascribed by a British Merchant to being towed astern, and the grounding of the *Highflyer* to the weakness of her tug, in a tone as though both were trifles, quite inadequate to check the rush of shipping to load teas direct from Hankow. The casualties to the *Min* and *Coulmyle* are barely noticed, the latter having merely damaged the copper under her bows, and returned to Shanghai on a sort of pleasure trip, to repair the injury she sustained when it is considered that the wreck of the *Guinevere* involved an enormous loss to the Insurers of her cargo alone, to say nothing of the value of the ship; that the *Highflyer*, after twice grounding, has been obliged to return to Shanghai to unload and dock at great expense, and at a delay which in itself involves loss; that the *Coulmyle* has had to pay for towage to Hankow and back for no purpose, and to dock into the bargain, the results appear rather more serious. Whether or not better management might have averted the casualties, is matter of opinion; apparently the Insurance Companies agree with us in attributing them mainly to the dangers of the Yangtze navigation, as they have not only raised the insurance to the double rate, against the mere suggestion of which a British Merchant so energetically protests, but have added another half percent. It is true that other ships have gone up to Hankow since the news of the loss of the *Guinevere* reached Shanghai, but Insurance had been already effected on them and their cargoes at the previous low rate. And as the question of insuring risk is merely one of insurance, it was unlikely

that the news of a casualty against which they were protected by insurance, would deter them.—N. C. Daily News.

From the Foochow Advertiser.

STATEMENT of John Antonio Seaman on board the British schooner *Pearl*.

The *Pearl* left Takao on the 9th June, and on Tuesday the 12th at about 12 o'clock at night was proceeding under reefed topsails, and double reefed main sail, when the vessel was suddenly caught by a squall of wind and capsize. I was at the wheel and the Captain also when the ship was struck, and when we were thrown into the water we both clung to the same plank. I think every one else must have been drowned. There were on board Mr Christian, of Tait & Co., a gentleman belonging to the Custom house, and three Chinese passengers. The crew consisted of the Captain, 5d Mate, 1 Portuguese, 2 Secutaries and 1 Chinaman. After the vessel turned over I saw no one but the Captain. The Captain clung to the plank till Thursday when he seemed to turn crazy and threw himself up in the air and fell back into the sea and was drowned, his face and body were all black and he called out that he could stand it no longer. I clung till the next day (Friday) when I was picked up by a fishing boat. They kept me on board for three days when they put me on shore. Some of the people of the place where we landed then brought me up to Foochow, we have been four days coming up. They have treated me very well on the road, and when I fainted from fever and exhaustion several times they either carried me or paid some one else to do so. All my clothes were washed off my body, and when I was picked up I was quite naked. The fishermen gave me a pair of trousers and the village a jacket.

We met some Chinese soldiers on the way who insulted me, and plucked at my beard and pulled some of it out. Taken before me this 23d day of June 1866, at H. M. Consulate, Foochow.

CHARLES CARROLL, Acting Consul.

Speaking of the Cesar Piracy the Foochow Advertiser says,

Another vessel arrived on Monday last, which had also been attacked by pirates. The Captain reports that the Pirates are "as thick as locusts," and very daring, venturing right up to the mouth of the River. Meanwhile, where is the Gun-boat?

ARRIVAL OF THE MAIL.

THE P. & O. steamer *Benares*, Captain Browne, from Bombay with dates to the 16th, Galle 21st, Penang 26th, and Singapore 28th inst, bringing the Europe Mail of 25th June, anchored in the harbour at 7 A.M. to-day.

THE *Benares* brings 926 chests of Malwa opium for China, and the latest Bombay prices averaged Rs. 1,515 per chest.

(From the Straits Times.)

The amount of bullion by the present steamer is in Silver to Shanghai, \$9,280.

THE latest telegrams to hand by the present steamer are as follows:—

London 12th June.—Cotton steady. Austria energetically repelled accusation of Prussia.

Circular issued proposing mobilisation of Federal contingent. Austrians evacuated Holstein. Saxons 14th June.—Suspension of Agria Bank caused great consternation—a run made on the other Banks—market completely paralysed.

Calcutta, heavy failures reported—all business suspended—prospects of short crop Indigo.

AMERICA.

The grand jury of the Circuit Court of Norfolk has indicted Mr Davis for treason, and it is supposed the trial will commence at the sitting of the Court at Richmond, in the first week in June.

The indictment against Mr Davis specifies that on the 15th June, 1864, he conspired with others at Richmond to overthrow by force of arms the government of the United States. It was reported that the trial would take place early in June, and that Chief Justice Chase had consented to preside, if President Johnson would proclaim the abrogation of martial law, so far as the jurisdiction of the District Court of Virginia is concerned. The health of Mr Davis was rapidly failing. The President had ordered a special report of his physical condition to be made and the report of his confinement to be immediately relaxed. Mr Davis is said to have expressed great pleasure at the prospect of his speedy trial, and to have declared that he can make a successful defence.

The 26th April was appointed throughout the Southern States of America as a day upon which the tombs and graves of the Confederate dead should be decorated with flowers. The duty was sacredly observed; and in all parts of the country the ladies, who appear to be the most devoted to the cause, strewed the many cemeteries and tombs of those who had fallen with flowers. In many places the day was also observed, as one of fasting and prayer.

CAPTAIN OWEN, of the British barque *Elizabeth*, which arrived from Macao on the 26th inst., reports having seen on the 9th instant, in lat. 6° 49' N. and 111° E., the junk ship, when it is considered that the wreck of the *Guinevere* involved an enormous loss to the Insurers of her cargo alone, to say nothing of the value of the ship; that the *Highflyer*, after twice grounding, has been obliged to return to Shanghai to unload and dock at great expense, and at a delay which in itself involves loss; that the *Coulmyle* has had to pay for towage to Hankow and back for no purpose, and to dock into the bargain, the results appear rather more serious. Whether or not better management might have averted the casualties, is matter of opinion; apparently the Insurance Companies agree with us in attributing them mainly to the dangers of the Yangtze navigation, as they have not only raised the insurance to the double rate, against the mere suggestion of which a British Merchant so energetically protests, but have added another half percent. It is true that other ships have gone up to Hankow since the news of the loss of the *Guinevere* reached Shanghai, but Insurance had been already effected on them and their cargoes at the previous low rate. And as the question of insuring risk is merely one of insurance, it was unlikely

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THE following has been the preliminary investigation of the Police Court this morning of the piracy cases of the *Cesar* and *Carl*.

John Schacht, 2d mate, of the Danish schooner *Carl* deposes as follows:—On the 15th instant,—we were under sail near Sing-Lee Island, about a day's sail to the North

of this. About 1 o'clock in the afternoon, we were attacked by a large Junk. Guns were fired at us. We kept before the wind. The pirates came up to us; they fired many shots; Captain was wounded by a musket shot, nobody else hurt. We had a crew of six Europeans, including Captain and myself, and two Chinese servants.

We had only two 12-pounders, twelve rifles and two revolvers on board. We had Rice, Tea, Tobacco and Cigar as cargo. When the junk got alongside, we were boarded by 40 or 50 armed men. Among the prisoners at the bar I recognize the first five as having been on board. They were all armed with revolvers and knives. We made no resistance, but made for the tops of the masts, as they (the pirates) commenced the heavy stickups. The pirates remained about 15 minutes. When they left, we came down. They only took little of the cargo, but carried with them a Chronometer, telescope, etc., some of our clothing and other articles. A gold ring (now produced in Court), was stolen out of my chest. I identify the chest (now in Court) as my property; a plate and pair of shoes inside the chest I recognize as stolen from the *Carl*. When we came down we found the fore-top-sail, which we broke upon. We then made the best of our way to Hongkong, and reached here on the 16th instant, about noon. We had left Hongkong for the Amoor River on Thursday, the 14th instant. I do not know what became of the Captain,—I never saw him since.

This morning I was informed that some men had been captured. I was taken to the Goal and shown some twenty or more Chinese. They were mixed up together, and I identified the first five prisoners among them.

A Schriever, seaman, on board the *Claudius*, I remember the 15th of this month. We were about 20 miles from Hongkong; the nearest land was about 10 miles off. I saw a large junk; she was lying on the same course we were; she fired a heavy gun when she got near us. Captain sang out, "there is a junk coming down upon us with stickups; square away." The men in the junk began to fire with small arms now. They came alongside, throwing stickups. We went aloft, but before doing so, I saw the Captain lying over a rail with three or four Chinamen round him. The spot near him was covered with blood. About 20 men, well armed, came on board. I identify the second prisoner as one of those men; he had a pistol in his hand, and several knives in his girth. I have identified a shot at my ship. The fire was so near that I saw the smoke of the firing. The junk began to fire with small arms now. They came alongside, throwing stickups. 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is so delicate as to render it impracticable to wind off the Silk, it is therefore spun like cotton. The yarn thus manufactured is woven into a coarse kind of white cloth and is said to be of incredible durability, the life of one person being seldom sufficient to wear out a garment made of it. With regard to the Cynthia Militia the author states that for some time he was pointed out to him as Chief, as the oak upon which this silk was fed; he obtained specimens of the cocoons and when the moth made its appearance he recognised the Cynthia Militia in Jardine's Naturalist's Library. Success had not attended the attempts to introduce this silk into England, from the failure of all efforts which had been made to transplant the oak upon which it feeds. In India the Cynthia Militia is well known as the source of the Silk called Tussock Silk, which is woven into a fabric much worn by Brahmin and other sects of Hindoos. The author then gives an account, received from a Chinese friend, as to the manner of rearing these Silkworms and ruling and spinning the Silk. With respect to the Ailanthus Silkworm, the author states that the cocoons sent him failed to produce a single moth, his friend sent the cocoons to the Society. The Silk manufactured from the Ailanthus Silkworm is said to acquire a pungent peppery flavour which is excepted from the silks of insects. There are two species of Ailanthus upon which the Silkworm is fed. The first is called Hsiang-chun or fragrant Ailanthus, which grows plentifully in the neighbourhood of Ningpo and Shanghai, and in spring time the tender leaves are much relished by the Chinese as a culinary vegetable, under the name of Chun-Yu or Ailanthus sprouts.

The other species is called Olon Chun or fed Ailanthus: interesting description is given by the author of the mode of feeding and rearing the worms, and preparing the cocoons for being spun, and the methods employed in spinning the Silk. He modestly concludes with expressing his apprehension that he has added little to what is already known, but having heard that difficulties had been experienced by those who have attempted to rear the Chinese wild Silkworms in Europe and the United States, as well as in spinning and reeling the Silk from cocoons, the author hopes that, through the medium of the Asiatic Society, he might be able to bring valuable information to the notice of some to whom it might prove of material assistance.

The President then quoted a private letter of Dr. McCarty, containing a description of the difficulty of furnishing these subjects in China, from the want of museums and books of reference, he passed a high eulogium on Dr. McCarty for his interesting paper which he had little doubt would prove useful; he exhibited to the meeting some specimens of the Ailanthus worm, sent by Dr. McCarty. A discussion then took place in which Messrs. Alabaster, Robinson, Kingsmill, and Mering took part. The latter gentleman stated that many attempts have been made to introduce the Ailanthus silk. The difficulty of reeling of the cocoons has hitherto proved an obstacle to its success.

A vote of thanks to the author was proposed by Mr. Alabaster, seconded by Dr. Thin, and carried unanimously. The President then read a translation by the Rev. G. F. Moule of a Monumental Tablet at Hangchow recording the conversation of the Tien-chu-ling into a Tien-hung-kang. The Tablet consists chiefly of a virulent and rather amusing abuse of the Roman Catholic missionaries and invidious as to their real object in coming to China. For example, "The distance from Europe to China is several thousands of li, it requires a year to perform this journey hither and the dangers of the storms and waves. To leave one's home, to abandon one's wife and children and make a painful journey hither certainly implies some view to advantage in so doing; if we reason from human nature, no doubt they fraudulently obtain untold sums of Chinese gold in exchange for the productions of their country which they bring with them, and the various articles that they fabricate. It is reported, however, that those who enter the religion always receive presents, and the number of persons and limit of years is fixed. To win the wealth of China and then give it back to the people of China is a piece of stupidity hardly I imagine compatible with the pursuit of gain. No doubt men in love with fame have flung away their lives to gain the applause of mankind. But what if one person is enamoured of glory, will his countrymen all feel the same and leave their property on his support? Not to say that the actual tenants of the Tien-chu-ling who have come hither in long succession constitute in themselves a surprising number of persons all in love with fame. Ah! They have no doubt an adequate object for what they are doing." The monument (says the translator) still stands, protected by a tiled penthouse at the entrance of the Roman Catholic Missionary Convent in one of the principal thoroughfares of Hangchow his teacher an intelligent well informed man tells him it is commonly said by persons who have been to Peking that Yung-ching's trade against the Roman Catholics was altogether a matter of pity. He had paid a visit to one of the Mission Churches in the Capital. The Fathers instead of coming out to meet him contemptuously with a waiting him within the Church. He was engaged at this mark of disrespect and gave him a visit, and when he came to the throne he vented his animosity in the general persecution and expulsion of the missionaries.

At the conclusion of the lecture a discussion took place in which Rev. C. H. Butcher, Messrs. Alabaster, Davis, Robinson and others took part. A vote of thanks to the Rev. W. Moule for his interesting paper was proposed by the Rev. C. H. Butcher, seconded by Mr. Reynolds and carried unanimously. The President then announced the adjournment of the Meeting till the 13th September.

The meeting then separated.

THE MORTALITY AT HONGKONG.

(From the Times.)

We were reminded yesterday, to our comfort, that a committee is sitting on last year's mortality at Hongkong. Colonel Sargent suggests for its consideration the permanent use of an expedient which has always been found to prevent, or to stop, or to mitigate considerably, the ravages of what is called the Hongkong fever. He proposes floating barracks at the healthier stations in the Bay, and thinks that our obsolete men-of-war, of which we have a great number, might be converted to this purpose. The European soldiers might be kept afloat from June to September, and it

would be easy, he thinks, to exercise and amuse them, and that would also develop useful qualities. Certainly the idea is plausible. The ships are here, in numbers and bulk enough to make anybody grouch at the sight of them, at Plymouth, or Portsmouth, or Sheerness; and under ordinary circumstances a ship is a good house. No doubt it would have been a very happy thing if one or two of these floating castles had been lying off Hongkong last spring when the 11th Regiment arrived, and there was no preparation to house in. In the comparison between floating barracks and permanent barracks in more healthy spots, the question of money, indeed, comes in. Our useless men-of-war would have to be taken there; they would have to be kept in good repair, and periodically replaced. At Hongkong we are told that the fever is not every year, but every three or four years; that Europeans suffer more than Chinese or our Indian troops; that certain localities are much more malarious than others; and that the habits of the natives and the uncleanliness arising out of a large and dense population greatly aggravate the evil. But unquestionably this "barren rock" is worse than barren land, and a special ground of unhealthiness. There is something that develops its unusual virulence beyond the ordinary seeds of disease. Hongkong is a mountain of friable granite, from many parts of which a moisture, said to be itself deleterious, is continually oozing. Victoria spreads for several miles along the foot of this mountain, and climbs up the sides where it is possible; and its 100,000 inhabitants or more would not find room if they did not sleep on the mountainside, and their dwelling as they call it. This is bad, but worse comes. The city faces north-east, and the sun consequently disappears behind the mountain long before it reaches the horizon of the sea. This creates a long interval, equivalent to the mild evenings and the twilight of our temperate zone, in which the glaring light and burning heat of the day are sufficiently subdued for out-door exercise, and it is the delight of the European residents. But every body who has at hand the atmospheric vicissitudes of days and of seasons will see at once the dangers of a local twilight from such causes. It is a phenomenon which the tourist may see as well as feel in Swiss valleys on a summer's day. As the sun's rays leave the valley the air thickens and curdles so quickly that a sharp line divides the sunlit from the sunless portion of the atmosphere. The English people, all over the world, think the temper of sunset as carefully as they do the not always harmless chill of their own summer and autumn evenings. Indeed, there is no point of sanitary practice in which our countrymen differ from the natives of warmer climates. Unfortunately, this recklessness leads the natives to suppose that it is really a matter of indifference to them, and an Italian, who would not for the world live out of the sun or occupy a room with a north aspect, thinks these things are the quarters for a hardy English tourist, or student, or guest. To return to Hongkong. Imagine a large and crowded city, hemmed in between a harbour and a steep mountain, with sea vapours, land vapours, and town vapours steaming up all day, left in the shade for an hour or two, and then set every evening. It is the very arrangement for malaria on the largest possible scale. The rich merchants, and all who can afford it, drive round the mountain and spend the evening and the night on the sunny side. We presume that our soldiers cannot do this, and that it would not be possible to perch them up over the town, though even that would not take them out of the deadly shadow. But whatever the dilemma, the difficulties, and the cost, we cannot afford to lose a regiment there once in three years. It appears from Colonel Sargent's letter that even the best barracks that can be built are not safe under the circumstances. So there is really much to be said for his suggestion of floating barracks, and we hope it will be well considered.

LATEST AUSTRALIAN NEWS.

(From the London and China Express May 17.)

VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, May 28.

Despatches have been received from McIntyre. In March he was on the Cloncharry River actively engaged in searching for traces of Leichardt. The barque Ellen Simpson was lost near Cape Howe on the 17th inst. Captain Poole and eight men were drowned. The mate and second mate were saved. A prospectus has been issued for a Company to make salt at Western Port Bay. Rice is moving off at 427; small sales at 428. Blasting powder is wanted; 6½d. is refused for Lochfyne.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The long summer drought was broken up by heavy rains on the 12th inst., since which copious showers have fallen at repeated intervals throughout the settled districts.

Parliament is still in recess, but is to be called together shortly on account of the extraordinary state of things in the Supreme Court.

Commodore Wiseman, who visited Port Adelaide last month in the Curacoa, has sent in an elaborate report on the best means of defending the coast.

Lieutenant Lucas, of the 40th, is the new Aid-de-Camp to the Governor, Mr. D. D. Daly having resigned.

The Chamber of Commerce, at its meeting on May 9, strongly supported the proposals of the Government Commission for the improvement of Port Adelaide.

The census was taken March 26:—Males, 55,822, females, 73,343; travellers (estimated), 1,366; total, 129,531 (exclusive of aborigines). Excess of males over females, 7,479. Increase on census of 1861, 37,335, or 29.43 per cent.

The immigration to Port Adelaide to May 19 has been 2,701; emigration, 1868.

The cereal receipts to May 19 (outports included) amount to 4343,177 lb.

The Customs receipts to May 19 (outports included) were £98,722 0s. 8d.

The imports and exports at Port Adelaide to May 19 are—imports, £1 013,996; exports, £879,188.

The total quantity of land sold to May 17 was 103,874 acres, yielding £176,190 10s.

The railway receipts on both lines to May 19 amounted to £49,451 1s. 3d.

Flour, 216 to 216.10 per ton of 2,000 lbs.; wheat, 7s. 7d. per bushel of 60 lbs.

Copper—Burra, £88; Wallaroo, £86 to £88.

Share List—Mounts, £141; Matta, £24; New Cornwall, £2 5s; Yelta, £30; Kanappa, £2 5s; Karkarilla, £13 10s; Wilkawat, £1 5s; Adelaide Bank, £2 9s.

National Bank (Ad reg.), £5 18s; Ditto (Mel reg.), £5 16s; South Australian Insurance, £2; Adelaide Marine, £1 8s; Adelaide Gas (ex div.), £8 10s; Gas (extension shares), £6 10s; Aerated Bread Company, 6s. 6d.; Kadina and Wallaroo Railway and Pier Company, £10; Wheel Cables, 2s. 6d.; Wheel Cables, £3 15s; Mount Lily, £1 5s; Murrumbidgee Bismuth and Copper Company, £10 5s; Pooma, £3; Equitable Fire Insurance, 19s; Spring Creek, £1 10s; Wheel James, £2.

Exchange.—Bills on London at 60 days' sight are bought at 1 per cent. discount, and sold at 4 per cent. premium by the Bank of Adelaide, Bank of Australasia, English and Scottish Chartered Bank, and South Australian Banking Company. The National Bank buys at par and sells at 1 per cent. premium.

VICTORIA.

The recall of Sir Charles Darling is highly approved by one party and loudly censured by the other. He defends his conduct, and declares his confidence of being able to vindicate himself before a Parliamentary Committee in England.

He declined a vote of £20,000 until the Queen's consent could be obtained, and the Assembly has resolved to address Her Majesty for permission.

The Prince de Joinville is expected to visit this colony.

The Legislative Council has addressed the Acting Governor, requesting him to compel the Colonists, about May 24 from the end of a cold caught while fishing. His body is to be sent to England.

There have been large numbers of Fenian sympathizers, and subscriptions have been made for the families of the Irish State prisoners. Mr. Buchanan delivered a lecture on the subject, which has been denounced as being treasonable.

On May 6 a shock of an earthquake was felt at Kilmara. The noise was heard 25 miles further south, but not northward.

QUEENSLAND.

It is reported that a Fenian Society has been discovered in the colony. Men have been drilled and meetings held at South Brisbane.

The marble has been quarried at Gladstone.

The Burru coal-fields are being worked successfully.

NEW ZEALAND.

There has been a hurricane which did considerable mischief at Kararua, destroying whole villages.

A schooner, the Melbourne, struck on a reef at Strouburk Island, and afterwards caught fire. The captain and crew were rescued.

The Government expect the revenue to exceed last year's by £20,000.

It has been notified that no troops are to remain except those for whom £40 per head per annum is paid.

A gold-field has been found near the River Ton in Southland.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF VALPARAISO.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

(From the London and China Express May 17.)

The port of Valparaiso has at last been

bombarded by the Spanish squadron. Although I informed you in my last letter of the rumours then current respecting the threats of the Spanish Admiral, I do not think it necessary to repeat the details of a strong neutral force in the Bay of Valparaiso was a sufficient guarantee for the peaceful inhabitants of this inoffensive town. But its doom had been cast by the Government of Madrid. Mendez Nunez received orders to bombard the town, and to destroy every palace, or but within reach of his guns. He announced his intention to General Kilpatrick, the United States Minister, and afterwards entered into negotiations with him, and it is supposed, after proposing terms of peace, deemed unacceptable by Kilpatrick himself, the Spanish Admiral published a manifesto, declaring that he had been able to destroy the combined Chilean and Peruvian flotilla for divers reasons, the artillery of his frigates would bombard the town of Valparaiso on the 31st of March. He also notified the bombardment to the military Governor of the port on the 27th, giving the non-combatant term of four days to move out of the place. The officer in command of the garrison answered that the port was an open and undefended place, and that the bombardment would only produce a general conflagration, involving the loss of lives and property of inoffensive inhabitants, Chileans and foreigners. The foreign Consuls protested in like manner, and declared they would hold the Spanish Admiral responsible for the loss of the whole civilized world for this act of devastation and inhumanity, if it should be carried out. The American Minister sent him a note couched in the strongest terms, but leaving the whole matter in the hands of his Government. I do not know whether the English, French, and Prussian Ministers have protested or not.

Meanwhile, on the first announcement of the bombardment, the English and American men-of-war in the harbour prepared for action. The corvette *Despatch*, ready to return to England, was ordered to remain, and the cables of the *Sutley* were taken down, and the guns run out of the port-holes. The American monitor, or ironclad turret ship *Mondoc*, prepared her machinery, and the other war-steamer protected their paddlewheels with chains and bags of coal. The English, Americans, and all the foreign men-of-war thought themselves safe from any practical attack. But a few days afterwards Mr. Thornton, the English Charge d'Affaires, and Admiral Deuman told their countrymen that they could expect no protection from the Eng-

lish naval forces. The American commander declared that he would make amends if the English helped him morally and materially, or even morally alone. A letter to the consuls has been published, in which Commodore Rodgers states in his own handwriting that he would have protected the town from such an act of brutality if the other maritime Powers had lent him their co-operation. This letter was published before the bombardment took place. So there can be no doubt respecting the real position assumed by the English Minister and Admiral. The English merchants implored the protection of the naval forces under Admiral Demann's command, and even went so far in their despair as to threaten that if left unprotected by their flag, they would make a representation to Commodore Rodgers—a step which, of course, they did not take, preferring to see their property destroyed rather than sully the national honour.

The whole diplomatic body of Santiago was set in motion. Mr. Thomson and Mr. Flary went up and down from Santiago to Valparaiso; they saw Mendez Nunez on board the *Despatch*, they remonstrated with him; they used all the arguments of logic, and even the last and most powerful one—they pointed at the guns of the *Mondoc* and of the *Sutley*. But Mendez Nunez told them his orders were such that if any resistance were made he would sink the English and American fleets in the Bay of Valparaiso. Whether Commodore Rodgers shared most the *Nuncio*, or the moral responsibility of bringing the States into a state of war, I cannot tell; but it is certain that after an ostentatious display of force, and after high-sounding protests, the English and American men-of-war steamed out of the Bay of Valparaiso on the morning of the 31st of March, on the signal given by the Spanish Admiral. The two squadrons, bearing the flags of the proud nations of the earth, stood off about three miles from the port, and allowed the seven vessels of the Spanish buccannery expedition to approach the shores of Valparaiso, and at a distance of about half a mile to pour in a raking fire of shot, shell, and all manner of projectiles into the defenceless buildings and houses. They amused themselves in this way for three hours, from 9 in the morning till half-past 12. When their work of devastation was over, the fleet of Valparaiso, assisted by the *Despatch*, which had been sent down from Santiago on the previous day, began their work of humanity and civilization, and after long hours of active and untiring work succeeded in extinguishing the fire which had broken out principally in the quarter of the town which lies between the Intendencia and the Plaza de la Municipalidad. After being silent spectators of this wanton havoc the English and American ships, to make the drama complete, sent in their fire engines and detachments of marines to help in putting out the flames.

The Chileans might have prepared a vigorous defence in Valparaiso, if they had chosen to expose the commercial town to the havoc of war. The English and American Ministers repeatedly protested against the use of arms of any description in Valparaiso on account of the immense amount of natural property there. They induced the authorities to take down a few old guns employed by the militia to save foreign men-of-war on their arrival at the port. The Chilean Government declare that Mr. Thomson had assured them that so long as Valparaiso remained undefended it could not be attacked, and that if any fortifications were built or arms used, England would make Chile answerable for all the property of British subjects that might be lost or destroyed. The position of this gentleman here is now very difficult, and the more so as the Chilean Government writes by this mail to Lord Clarendon asking him to withdraw the English representative in Santiago.

Unfortunately for the foreign residents at Valparaiso, they are, and must necessarily be, the principal sufferers by this dreadful catastrophe. It is supposed that the destruction of the Custom house stores, on which the Spaniards wreaked their revenge, will entail on the English a loss of about 20 million dollars, and on French about three millions, and on other nations about six millions. The streets burnt or battered down by the Spanish mortars and cannon were chiefly inhabited by French shopkeepers and English marine store dealers. An indignation meeting of the British subjects resident in Valparaiso has been held at which a committee regarding Mr. Thomson and Admiral Demann and conduct in this emergency have been carried out. These will be signed by all the British subjects and sent to the Foreign Office. The excuse given by Mendez Nunez for carrying out such brutal orders is that he has no time to lose, for in less than a month he will have to encounter the combined fleet of Chile and Peru. The justification is that he has sent two expeditions, one to the north and the other to the south, and that these expeditions will have been unsuccessful. The news of the bombardment of the defenceless town of Valparaiso will hasten the league now being formed in South America against Spain. New Granada and Venezuela will be dragged into the Confederacy, and it is impossible to foresee what effect it will have on the minds of the people of Montevideo and Buenos Ayres, hitherto tied down to Spanish interests.

THE U. S. NAVAL SQUADRON.

(From the North-China Daily News.)

The arrival of the U. S. S. *Harford* completes the American naval squadron in these waters. This squadron is now composed of the *Harford*, 1st class corvette; the *Wyandott*, 2nd class corvette; the *Shenandoah* sloop of war, and the *Supply* store ship. The following particulars of the career of the *Harford*, which is noted as the Flagship of Admiral Farragut during the late rebellion in the United States, will be interesting.

Her first engagement, in the most celebrated naval battle of the war, took place on the 24th and 25th April 1862, and resulted in the capture of the great iron-clad of the rebellion, New Orleans—opening the Mississippi from nearly one end to the other. This was only accomplished through the great perseverance of the *Iron Admiral*, and the fight on this occasion was conducted with Farragut's usual dash, he afterwards capturing Forts St. Philip, Jackson, Pike, and destroying the entire rebel fleet, including "iron clouds," fire rafts, torpedoes, &c. The present Rear Admiral (H. H. Bell) of the West India squadron, (now on board the *Harford*) rendered great assistance as fleet captain to Admiral Farragut. After the above mentioned successes, the *Harford*, proceeded up

the Mississippi, spreading terror and confusion throughout her course. Baton Rouge, Grand Gulf, Natchez and other minor points, one by one succumbed.

On the 25th June of the same year, the *Harford* and squadron attacked the batteries at Vicksburg. For a time the vessel-landed the rebel guns from the heights, but not having the requisite land force to cooperate, the advantage gained was given up.

It is unnecessary to enumerate the many engagements this ship has participated in; suffice it to say that the *Harford* distinguished herself at Port Hudson, and at the almost final blow to the rebellion at Mobile as the Flagship of the same commanding officer, forcing the surrender of Forts Gaines and Morgan, and the entire Iron-clad rebel fleet. During the war the *Harford* was hulled not less than 484 times.

The following officers are at present attached to her. Rear Admiral Henry H. Bell, Commanding E. I. Squadron, Captain Robert Shufeldt, Commander. Lt. Commanders Carpenter and McKenzie, Captain of Marines Forney, Paymaster Irving, Surgeon G. S. Caban, Surgeon Beale, Chaplain Donance.

NAGASAKI.

(From the North-China Daily News.)

Those who have visited Nagasaki and experienced the hospitalities of Bellevue Hotel, will be sorry to learn that it has lost its spirited proprietress Mrs. Green. The kindhearted and attentive, experienced proprietress was noted, and the hotel had become, during Green's absence in England, the most popular resort in Nagasaki. Since her return, however, unpleasant rumours of his domestic behaviour have caused it to be almost entirely abandoned. As these rumours have at length been confirmed by evidence given before H. B. M. Consul, there is no longer any reason for withholding them. It was then shown that Mrs. Green had for years submitted patiently to most cruel treatment by her husband, to avoid the scandal of a separation; but his behaviour became at length so unbearable that she was compelled to seek protection by summing him before the Consular Court. The feeling in her favour in Nagasaki is so strong and unanimous, that only one man in the place could be found to offer bail for Green, and he, we are glad to learn, was refused. Mr. Gunter deserves such fame for his espousal of the cause of a man in Green's position can give him, so we hold him up to public admiration. So great sympathy is felt by every one with Mrs. Green, that there can be little doubt she will again be reinstated in the position of landlady in which she has gained such popularity, as soon as the judicial separation for which she intends applying, can be arranged. We are not yet in possession of minutes of the evidence taken before the Consular Court, but are promised them at an early date.

The Princess Royal with Admiral King on board is lying at Nagasaki, and Sir Harry Parkes is expected there in the *Argus* immediately.

CALLS.

(From the Shanghai Recorder.)

It is a trite enough observation that the Chinese reverse all European habits; but as yet we do not think that any body has expatiated upon the number of customs which Europeans themselves invert or at least alter, when they come to these parts. Perhaps one of the strangest inversions of home rules is to be found in the system of making calls which is adopted in Shanghai. At home a certain amount of acquaintance with her husband is usually considered as a suitable prelude to calling upon a lady. But in Shanghai there has been for a long time, a kind of right by custom for everybody to call upon everybody else; and by simply being a resident in Shanghai a man had, in legal phraseology, a *prole prede* in the house of any other inhabitant of the place who happened to possess a better half. We must however lay a caveat against this custom, because to be good in law, it ought to be universal, and it ought also to be reasonable. Now the custom of calling upon people whom you do not know is certainly not universal and we also submit it is decidedly not reasonable. It is an awkward and unpleasant proceeding to send in your card to a lady who has never heard of you in her life, and who is forced to tell you how delighted she is to see you, when the time you are not quite sure that you are not wanted. Then too, according to the system in Shanghai, if you call upon one lady because you happen to know her husband, you are expected to call upon fifty others whose husbands you don't know. But the most serious objection to the system is that it entails very onerous duties upon the lady herself. To have to receive visits from every body who chooses to take into his head to come, is a task which the most kindly disposed ought not to have laid upon her. There are some men of the highest respectability, very good, very amiable, very worthy, but unfortunately boring. It is not their fault. They have no particular desire to be in the way; but still the fact remains that they are so—and these people are always callers. We have heard of a young man who actually prolonged a morning call to two hours, notwithstanding the most unmistakable hints that how ever pleasantly he might be passing his time, time still was fleeting; and that the ideas of duration entertained by the visitor and the visitée were very different. But we have a still further objection to the silly system of calling adopted in Shanghai. That is, it not only inflicts a married man with the people he does not want in his house; but often prevents his associating with those he wishes to see. There are many who, though by no means without society, cannot very naturally bring themselves to calling without being asked. The consequence is, if a man goes home, gets married and returns, his friend who is of a bashful disposition, does not call; and there is emity for life. The plan was all very well possible, in old days when there were very few people in the place; but we submit the time has now come when it ought to be abandoned for something more in accordance with the general customs of civilized Society. The system at present in fashion would seem peculiarly designed to encourage, as callers, just the particular class of people nobody is very anxious to see, while it naturally keeps at home all those men who have not the self complacency to inflict calls upon people with whom they have not the slightest acquaintance. A man of any education or refinement just arrived in Shanghai, would be soon think of calling upon all the ladies in the settlement as of jumping over the moon. The idea is so entirely contrary to all home habits that it would never enter his head. But besides,

being contrary to custom, we think the system adopted in Shanghai is contrary to ordinary good taste. It would be far better if the matter were left to those causes which naturally govern society in most other places; and that a man should be expected only to call upon those ladies with whom, from knowing their husbands or some other such reason, he has grounds for claiming acquaintance. In short, we think this like all other social matters should be left to natural good sense and good feeling, instead of as at present, the society of ladies being withheld from all those who are now willing to submit to the ceremony of calling upon total strangers, which may in many cases be fairly characterised as a prohibitive duty.

PROSPECTS OF COTTON SUPPLY.

(From Rees, Glanville & Co.'s Oriental Circular.)

A circular recently issued by Messrs. Ellison and Heywood contains facts and estimates which will be valued by such of our readers as are interested in the cotton supply question.

A very remarkable change has taken place in the position and prospects of the cotton-market since the date of our last report. A month ago, when middling upland was worth 18½d. per lb. it was thought not improbable, in view of the weight of the staple here and abroad, that we might witness an immediate fall of 1½d. to 2d. per lb.; but no such expectation was realized, of confidence, and the serious decline in prices that have since occurred. The increasing stocks of cotton, and the unfavourable aspect of Continental politics, gave rise to considerable apprehension on the part of holders, and made buyers exceedingly cautious operators, but, as a set off to these depressing influences, it was confidently anticipated that the downward movement of prices would be arrested by the receipt of advices reporting a rapidly decreasing arrivals at the American ports, and considerably curtailed shipments from India. These expectations have not been realised; on the contrary, the receipts at the South have been so liberal that the popular estimate of the total arrivals from the close of the war to the 1st of September next has been raised to 3,000,000 bales; while the continued heavy shipments from Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras have caused the entire import from India into this country during the present year to be increased in a still greater ratio. In addition to these augmented prospective supplies, the confidence and financial strength of holders has been severely tried by an immense present influx from all quarters. Most, if not the whole, of the recent arrivals have come to a losing market. In some cases perhaps the loss may not be very heavy, but in the great bulk of instances it must be almost ruinous. The aggregate nominal depreciation in the value of the late import and present stock cannot fall far short of from 17,000,000 to 28,000,000 sterling; but as much of the cotton has changed hands several times over, both before and since its arrival, the loss has been spread over a very large surface, embracing, besides the bona fide importers, a great number of "outsiders" speculators, residing in all parts of the country. Moreover, a very large portion of the loss has fallen upon the native shipping firms of India and America and will not, therefore, be felt in this country, except in the few cases where excessive advances have been made, and where reclamations cannot be obtained. It follows from this that the loss has not been so much as it has been much smaller than appears probable at first sight, and this fact accounts for the astonishingly few commercial embarrassments that have transpired, and the unexpected ease with which the large stock has been taken up and held. As concerns the manufacturing districts the fall could not have happened at a more opportune moment. Producers having operated very cautiously for several months past (a line of policy which we have for some time strongly recommended), possessed only a bare working stock of the raw material when the decline commenced, and being mostly under orders to hold securely any surplus stocks whatever of the manufactured article. There has been no feeling of panic such as we have had here, and though, as a matter of course, the prices of goods and yarns have given way, they have not declined in the same extent as they would have done. There being no stocks to force on the market, producers have had no occasion to press sales, while to those under contract the fall has been highly profitable. The stocks of cotton fabrics in the hands of consumers are so small that, notwithstanding the adverse influences, which have depressed the market, the demand has been sufficiently large and general to take off the produce of an average of nearly 42,000 bales per week, which amount is adopted in our estimate. There being no stocks to force on the market, producers have had no occasion to press sales, while to those under contract the fall has been highly profitable. The stocks of cotton fabrics in the hands of consumers are so small that, notwithstanding the adverse influences, which have depressed the market, the demand has been sufficiently large and general to take off the produce of an average of nearly 42,000 bales per week, which amount is adopted in our estimate. There being no stocks to force on the market, producers have had no occasion to press sales, while to those under contract the fall has been highly profitable. The stocks of cotton fabrics in the hands of consumers are so small that, notwithstanding the adverse influences, which have depressed the market, the demand has been sufficiently large and general to take off the produce of an average of nearly 42,000 bales per week, which amount is adopted in our estimate.

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PECTS OF COTTON SUPPLY.

See, Glamorgan & Co.'s Oriental Circular.)

Any remarkable change has taken place in the position and prospects of the market since the date of our last report. A month ago, when the cotton was at a low level, in view of the weight of the here and abroad, that we might in an immediate fall of 14d. to 2d. per one expected the sudden collapse of the market, and the serious decline in it has since occurred. The immediate future course of the market, present indications point to a further fall in prices. The stock will, in all likelihood, continue to accumulate until it reaches nearly 1,000,000 bales; under such circumstances a permanent reaction in values cannot yet be expected. Middling upland is now only worth 14d., Orleans 14½d., and fair Dhollera 10½d. Last year the lowest prices were 13d., 13½d., and 9½d. respectively, on the 17th of April, just after the news of the evacuation of Richmond. At that time holders were anticipated, and the market was in a state of confusion, but now they are influenced by the actual presence of the cotton. Of course no one can tell how much further prices will decline; but most people are looking for 12d. per lb. for middling American, and 8d. for fair Dhollera. Under such circumstances buyers will continue to operate very sparingly, both here and in Manchester; but when the cotton has once been touched the competition to get at the lowest point will, as in past times, lead to a sharp reaction. Still, with the heavy supplies we have enumerated above, the ultimate rebound cannot be very great.

THE DIVISION ON THE REFORM BILL.

The scene in the Members' Lobby must have been worth seeing for Princes, Ambassadors, and Peers, lay and clerical, were mixed up with Parliamentary agents, ex- members, and the usual crowd of hangers-on in the lobby. The interval of "waiting for a division" would make as good a picture as "waiting for the verdict." The occupants of the lobby heard all the cheering that went on within the House, but knew nothing of the result until the members first to leave rushed out, hot and panting, into the fruster air. But the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, and the Prince de Teck were by no means content to hear the shouts. They inquired whether it would not be possible to witness the scene on the division. They were told they could do so, if they did mind standing at the top of the stairs leading into the Speaker's Gallery. Here, accordingly, the royal party took their station, watching the scene with the keenest interest, and highly amused by the surging, seething, excited, and shouting crowd below.

The galleries cleared, and every member duly looked in, and obliged to vote, the Speaker, according to the usual custom, the question a second time. Again the response came in two several peals of thunder, and again the Tories had the best of it in strength of lungs. About half-a-dozen young country squires made their voices heard above the roar of this tempest of sound by shouts that might have come from mania in Bedlam. Then came the usual direction from the chair—"The Ayes to the Right, the Noes to the Left."

Members then rose to their feet, and slowly made to move in their respective lobbies. The House itself was like a vapour bath, and the division lobbies still better and more stifling. Slowly the crowd filtered through the wickets, and were numbered by the tellers. The Ayes gathered in crowds at the bar, and the Noes behind the Speaker's chair; but by degrees members found their way to their seats on the floor and in the galleries. In about twenty minutes a strange electric-like excitement began to manifest itself. Mr Walpole passed along the front Opposition bench, and whispered to Mr Disraeli the word "six." It was eagerly caught up, and repeated along the Opposition benches, but it was generally believed to be only a guess at the probable Ministerial majority. Mr Brand then made his appearance. He had "told" the Noes; and then the ominous figures "313" were read from mouth to mouth as the numbers of the Opposition. It was later than the Liberals had feared or the Tories hoped; and although the numbers for the Government were not yet known, the number of the "Noes" increased the excitement on the Conservative benches. "At length Mr Childers burst through the mob at the bar, and, rushing up the floor to the Treasury bench, delivered the ill news in a half audible whisper to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He seemed to repeat the words "Five" in a tone of disappointment. The Tories did not hear this, and the House had still to wait for the appearance of the Government teller. After a moment of the crowd at the bar, and amid cries of "make way for the tellers," Mr Adam emerged, and made his way up the floor. The House was charged with electric light like a vast thunder-cloud; and now, behold, the spark was about to be applied. Strangers in the galleries rose in their seats. Conservative "P's" began to repeat the words of benches—the crowd at the bar pushed its way half-up the floor—the royal princes leaned forward in their inconvenient stand- ing-place—and the officers of the House, participating in the universal excitement, had no eyes or ears for any breach of rule or order.

First blood for the Ministry! The clerk hands the paper to Mr Brand, and a vociferous cheer arises—"We repeat the offer!" The Government have a majority of some kind or other. Aye, gentlemen! Cheer

on! Now is your time! You may be thankful for small mercies; but *carpe diem*! The present moment is at least yours. While the tellers are walking down the floor, shout and shout again!

The tellers arrange themselves in due form and order. Mr Brand, with the paper in his hand, on his left Mr Adam, next him Lord Stanley, and then Earl Grosvenor. They bow and walk up the floor, and again make due obeisance to the chair. Then Mr Brand, in loud, distinct, and manly tones, reads—

Ayes to the right. 318

Noes to the left. 313

Hardly had the words left his lips than there arose a wild, raging, mad-brained shout from floor and gallery, such as has never been heard in the present House of Commons. Dozens of half-frantic Tories stood up in their seats, madly waved their hats, and hurrahed at the very top of their voices. Strangers in both galleries clapped their hands. Admirals on the Mil- nial benches, carried away by the delirium of the moment, waved their hats in sympathy with the Opposition, and cheered as loud as any.

Cheer away, gentlemen of the Opposition! It is verging towards four o'clock in the morning, and you have the whole day before you for jubilation. The two Houses and the Royal Duke are looking on, and every variety of intonation, as everybody of you if they might be permitted to do so, of sheer sympathy with riotous animal spirits and unheeded transports of joy. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has evidently had enough of it. Perhaps your noise has given him a headache! See, he lifts up his hands to bespeak silence, as if he had something to say in regard to "the result of the division." But the more the great orator lifts his hand beseechingly, the more the cheers are renewed and the hats are waved. At length the noise comes to an end by the process of exhaustion, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer rises. Then there is a universal hush, and you might hear a pin drop. He simply says:—"Sir, I propose to fix the Committee for Monday, and I will then state the order of business."

The words were repeated by 600 voices in every variety of intonation, as everybody rose from his seat and moved towards the doors. That little speech might mean anything or nothing. "What does he mean?" I heard one eager Conservative say to his chief whip. "He will tell us on Monday what they mean to do," was the Colonel's reply, as he coolly lit a cigar. "They must go out and see the Tories," "Will they discipline?" was asked in every tone and accent of anxiety. Every M.P. how- ever Liberal, is intensely Conservative in his Parliament; and the notion of a dis- solution excites such energetic expressions of disapprobation among members, their wives and daughters, that the cry is "any- thing but that!"

It was twilight brightening into day when we got out into the welcome fresh air of New Palace Yard. Early as was the hour, about three hundred persons were assem- bled to see the members come out, and to cheer the friends of the Bill. It was a night to be long remembered. The House of Commons had listened to the grandest orator ever yet delivered by the greatest orator of his age; and had then to ask itself how it happened that the Liberal party had been dismantled, and a Liberal majority of sixty "muddled away."

(From the North-China Daily News, June 22)

The period of doubt and uncertainty through which we are now passing may not be without advantage if, by enabling us to retire for a time from the vortex of current affairs, it leads to reflections on the course of commercial events which, during the hurry of active business, few have leisure to make. We all know the difficulty of regarding our own near concerns from a distant stand point, and journalists, though presumably calm spectators, may in periods of excitement be carried away by the passions which surround them, and be hurriedly surrounded, and neglect to utter the timely warning which, however small its result, it is a duty of the commercial critic to courageously repeat. We are led to these considerations by the peculiar position of the Hankow tea market on which the depressing news brought by the last French mail, though causing an almost total suspension of business in Shanghai, produced no more serious effect than a drop of two baels from the extrava- gant prices previously ruling, and a more endeavour to trace some of the causes of the phenomena which the China Tea Trade is now presenting, hoping, by the light of past experience, to suggest a way to the formation of a true judgment on the course events are likely to take as the season progresses.

One of the most striking facts that mark the opening of the present Tea Season in Hankow, is an increase in the production of tea with a largely increased production of an anomaly for which the most favourable home prospects cannot satisfactorily account. Another cause must be sought; else, admitting the markets in the interior to stand in the same relation to the ports of shipment that these hold to the home markets, it follows that, here also, rising prices should go hand in hand with accumu- lating stocks, a case known to be impos- sible. The anomaly can then only be explained by the fact that, at the opening of the season in the inland markets, large sums lie ready in the hands of uncontrolled agents for imperative investment; whereas in the buyer at the port, however loose the limits imposed upon him, a certain discre- tion is always looked for. In a word, the foreign contract system is accountable for the anomaly—a system whose operation appears based on a fallacy, and whose nature is a misnomer. A contract entered into with a house of standing for the delivery of a certain quantity of goods is a reasonable and intelligible transaction. But the placing large sums of money in the hands of men for employment at all costs, neces- sarily leads to doubtful and hazardous en- terprises. In fact, it is difficult to recon- cile the precautions taken by merchants to insure themselves from loss while their property is under their own eyes, in foreign warehouses in the foreign ships, with the re- luctance placed in the safety of leaky teasels and crazy junks. We believe that the pro- portion of foreign capital employed in the preparation of the Opium crop was, this season, unprecedentedly large; and thus, although a fine season led to an early and plentiful crop which the farmers, anxious to realise, commenced selling at a moderate rate, prices steadily advanced day by day, producing the result before us. The notorious character thus given to the so-called opening of the market,

led to an acquiescence in rates which nothing but this conflicting interest could have so long upheld.

A circumstance which has totally falsified the views originally entertained, before the way for opening up China was entered upon, is the successive advance in the cost of produce as new ports have placed as nearer to the producing districts. That, by being brought into more intimate relationship with the grower, our facilities for purchasing must necessarily increase in a like ratio, was then an undoubted axiom. A great extension of the home demand will not of itself explain the reason of the exact contrary having been proved to be the fact. In addition to the excitement brought on by the sudden influx of foreign capital into the country, another cause is in powerful operation at the output markets. We have alluded above to the description attributable to the foreign buyer. This discretion is, in the case of Commission Houses, often entirely over- ruled by the limits sent them being so vague as to admit a doubt, of which they avail themselves to endeavour to trace their climatic phenomenon to its cause, or at least to find some satisfactory explanation to account for its occurrence. The various climates of the different coast regions of the northern and southern hemispheres, are known to depend, in addition to certain local conditions, principally upon the fact that, in obedience to the great natural law of "seasons equilibrium," the temperature of heated water, therefore of higher specific gravity, is constantly setting from the equator in either direction towards the poles, while an exactly corresponding set of currents of chilled and consequently dense water, is setting from the poles towards the equator. The course and relations of these currents, known as the Gulf stream in the North Atlantic, have been thoroughly in- vestigated, and their influence on the climate of adjacent coasts well recognized. It is now ascertained beyond question that, the higher the temperature in the tropics, the larger the body of heated equatorial water that will flow north, and give correspond- ingly warm seasons on the coasts to which it is directed in its course towards the pole; while, the more intense the arctic winter, the larger the cold polar current that will result, and flow towards the equator, and in a corresponding ratio, lower the tempera- ture of the sea-board which it washes. In the North Atlantic Ocean the Arctic current with its bergs and ice fields issuing from Davis' Straits in a vast low volume meets the warm Gulf stream, and by it is divided into two great currents; one of which washes the western sea board of Europe and a small part of the adjacent coast of Africa, gradually, however, losing its temperature in blending with the equatorial current. The other portion of the polar stream strikes on the eastern coast of North America; its cooling influence being appreciable as far south as the peninsula of Florida, where it meets the full force of the equatorial current deflected from the gulf of Mexico, whence it derives its name. In the Pacific Ocean, an analogous set of currents, with their attendant influences on the adjacent continents prevail, though their exact relations have not been so pre- cisely determined. A similar Arctic current issues from the comparatively narrow Straits of Behring, to encounter a much greater equatorial current than that of the North Atlantic. The same denunciation of the polar stream, however, takes place; the left or eastern limb leaving the Californian and Mexican coasts of North America, the Isthmus of Panama and the adjoining por- tion of South America; while the right or western limb of the current is directed to- wards the coasts of Siberia, Tartary and China, but is prevented reaching them in full force by the interruption offered to its course by the chain of peninsulas and islands including the Aleutian and Japanese archipelago on the eastern face of which its eddying influences are more fully ex- posed than on the adjacent sea-board of the continent which they to a great extent over- lap. In addition, a portion of the warm current from the equator, unopposed by the northern stream, strikes in on the coast of China between it and the Island groups above mentioned, and in consequence fur- ther tends to elevate the temperature of the coast on the eastern face of which it will be readily understood why, within the milder parallels of latitude, we have so much higher a temperature in this part of China than on the eastern and western coasts of Europe. In connection with these details, the light which a letter lately published in a British journal by Dr Hjaltalin the principal medical officer of the Danish govern- ment in Iceland, may reasonably be sup- posed to throw on the season or cause of the present unusually cool season enjoyed by the residents on the coast of Northern China, and even as far South as Hongkong, is remarkably interesting. Dr Hjaltalin states in the letter alluded to, that the Arctic winter has been one of extreme severity. The winter in Iceland was "frightful," the mean temperature being 6 deg. below the mean of any former season recorded. To mention in this language of the writer: "This state of things will occasion the meadows northern ice drift, the conse- quences of which you will feel in England and other Northern countries. The enormous ice blocks will be drifted into the Atlantic, and melting there will cause a considerable lowering of your mean summer temperature." Of course the intensity of the Arctic winter will be the cause of a correspondingly large polar current of very low specific gravity, and will cause the North Pacific as well as into the North Atlantic, and with the modifying conditions we have already described, will exert during the season a marked influence on the climatic character of the adjacent coasts. It is more than probable that to this cause we must refer the unusually low temperature which has distinguished the portion of the summer just past.

From this tabular view it will be observed that the contrast between the present and former seasons is more marked. The difference between the mean temperature of this season and the highest mean of the other four, amounts to 7.6°, or, taking an average of the amounts to 6.25°. In these days of meteorological speculation, it may be interesting to endeavour to trace this climatic phenomenon to its cause, or at least to find some satisfactory explanation to account for its occurrence. The various climates of the different coast regions of the northern and southern hemispheres, are known to depend, in addition to certain local conditions, principally upon the fact that, in obedience to the great natural law of "seasons equilibrium," the temperature of heated water, therefore of higher specific gravity, is constantly setting from the equator in either direction towards the poles, while an exactly corresponding set of currents of chilled and consequently dense water, is setting from the poles towards the equator. The course and relations of these currents, known as the Gulf stream in the North Atlantic, have been thoroughly in- vestigated, and their influence on the climate of adjacent coasts well recognized. 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The unusually severe pressure for money by the interests with which they are im- mediately surrounded, and neglect to utter the timely warning which, however small its result, it is a duty of the commercial critic to courageously repeat. We are led to these considerations by the peculiar position of the Hankow tea market on which the depressing news brought by the last French mail, though causing an almost total suspension of business in Shanghai, produced no more serious effect than a drop of two baels from the extrava- gant prices previously ruling, and a more endeavour to trace some of the causes of the phenomena which the China Tea Trade is now presenting, hoping, by the light of past experience, to suggest a way to the formation of a true judgment on the course events are likely to take as the season progresses.

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ly ushered in by a thunderstorm preceded by a few cool days. That the present cool weather is not a sensible coolness produced by cold winds or a clouded sun, but an actual temperature as indicated by the thermometer, the following table will show. It is compiled from observations of the in- strument noted for the first eighteen days of June.

| | Max. | Min. | Average. |
|------------|-------|-------|----------|
| 1862—50.3 | 69.8 | 74.55 | |
| 1863—86.11 | 66.7 | 76.09 | |
| 1864—84.03 | 65.11 | 74.57 | |
| 1865—86.8 | 66.5 | 76.06 | |
| 1866—74.06 | 64 | 69.03 | |

From this tabular view it will be observed that the contrast between the present and former seasons is more marked. The difference between the mean temperature of this season and the highest mean of the other four, amounts to 7.6°, or, taking an average of the amounts to 6.25°. In these days of meteorological speculation, it may be interesting to endeavour to trace this climatic phenomenon to its cause, or at least to find some satisfactory explanation to account for its occurrence. The various climates of the different coast regions of the northern and southern hemispheres, are known to depend, in addition to certain local conditions, principally upon the fact that, in obedience to the great natural law of "seasons equilibrium," the temperature of heated water, therefore of higher specific gravity, is constantly setting from the equator in either direction towards the poles, while an exactly corresponding set of currents of chilled and consequently dense water, is setting from the poles towards the equator. The course and relations of these currents, known as the Gulf stream in the North Atlantic, have been thoroughly in- vestigated, and their influence on the climate of adjacent coasts well recognized. It is now ascertained beyond question that, the higher the temperature in the tropics, the larger the body of heated equatorial water that will flow north, and give correspond- ingly warm seasons on the coasts to which it is directed in its course towards the pole; while, the more intense the arctic winter, the larger the cold polar current that will result, and flow towards the equator, and in a corresponding ratio, lower the tempera- ture of the sea-board which it washes. In the North Atlantic Ocean the Arctic current with its bergs and ice fields issuing from Davis' Straits in a vast low volume meets the warm Gulf stream, and by it is divided into two great currents; one of which washes the western sea board of Europe and a small part of the adjacent coast of Africa, gradually, however, losing its temperature in blending with the equatorial current. 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